

Mr. Speaker, the United States must continue to play leadership role in protecting the civilians in Darfur and working towards a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict. Too many lives have already been lost and this situation will continue to worsen unless we fulfill our commitment by supporting and strengthening the international mission in Darfur.

CONGRATULATING THE CHAZY EAGLES AND LYME INDIANS 2007 NEW YORK STATE GIRLS SOCCER CLASS D CO-CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Chazy Central Rural School District's Eagles and the Lyme Central School District's Indians upon sharing the 2007 New York State Class D Girls Soccer Championship. This was the first State girls soccer championship in school history for both schools, which are located in my Upstate New York Congressional District.

On November 17, 2007, Chazy and Lyme became the New York State Class D Co-Champions when they played each other to a 0-0 tie after two overtime periods and 110 minutes. In the game, Lyme goalkeeper Alex Weston, who was named the tournament's outstanding goalkeeper, made 12 saves while Chazy's K.C. Olds set a State record with her 20th shutout of the season. Olds, who tied the Section VII career record with 37½ shutouts, was also a Third Team All-State selection.

The Chazy Eagles finished their season at 23-1-1 under the tutelage of Coach Joe Dumoulin, who was named Class D Coach of the Year. Other members of the team included assistant coaches Saania Duprey, Karissa House, and Cory Thompson and players Brigid Daul, a two-time Third Team All-State selection; Liz Favreau; Jessica Garrant; Co-Captain Brittany Godreau; Heather Guay; Co-Captain Madelaine Guay, a two-time First Team All-Conference selection and a First Team All-State selection; Astrid Kempainen; Caitlyn Lapier; Devin Latremore; Jennifer Lavigne; Co-Captain Samantha Lavigne; Ali Mitchell; Megan Ryan; Victoria Reynolds, a Second Team All-State selection; Morgan Roussy; Marie Trombly; Shauni Trombly; and Gabby Weeden.

The Lyme Indians finished the season 22-1-1 under Coach Mary Guyette, who is set to retire after 20 years of coaching. Other members of the team included assistant coaches Ashley Barbour and Kristin Robbins; and players Jennifer Augustus; Morgan Boccia; Meredith Borden; Jessica Brown; Tiffany Brown; Katrena Lane; Rachel Matraw; Jasmine Noll; Hilary Rust, a Second Team All North selection; Olivia Speno, a Second Team All North selection; Brittany Sharlow; Courtney Strasser; and Tiffany Wright. Of note, Nikkia Raso and Terra Towne were named CoMost Valuable Players of the Frontier League. In addition, Raso, a First Team All-State selection, was named Class D girls soccer Player of the Year by the New York State Sports-writers and Coaches Organization while Towne was named Second Team All-State.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent the Chazy Eagles and the Lyme Indians girls

soccer teams. Accordingly, I now ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their hard work and accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CLEVELAND CHAPTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Cleveland Chapter of the Knights of Rizal, and to celebrate their contributions in service to the Filipino community of Cleveland.

The Knights of Rizal are named after Dr. Jose Protacio Rizal, martyred in 1896 in the midst of the fight for Filipino independence from Spain. Dr. Rizal was an inspiration to a whole country and to celebrate his contributions to the fight for independence for the Philippines.

The Cleveland Chapter of the Knights of Rizal was founded fifteen years ago and has served the Filipino community with dedication and distinction.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Cleveland chapter of the Knights of Rizal. I commend the Knights of Rizal for their commitment to the Filipino community and the greater community of Cleveland.

ON THE PASSING OF LOUIS JORDAN

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I respectfully pause today with a heavy heart as I share with my colleagues the sad news of the passing of my good friend Attorney Louis Jordan who was a native of Warren County, NC and lived in Goldsboro, NC. Louis slipped away from us last night leaving his wife Nancy James Jordan and their two adult children, Kevin and Kelly.

A good number of years ago, both Louis and I attended North Carolina Central University. It was there that we became roommates and subsequently grew to be very close friends. After graduation, I returned to my hometown of Wilson and Louis settled in Goldsboro. For more than 35 years, Louis provided a tremendous service to the Wayne County community through his community-oriented practice of law.

Madam Speaker, with many years between us and our law school days, our paths once again crossed. I was a sitting Superior Court Judge and Louis was a practicing attorney who argued many cases before me. He was never one to shy away from a fight and was equipped to slay any legal giant. Louis represented his clients well.

Louis later became an ordained minister and through his ministry exhibited his true dedication, commitment and loyalty to his community. He was a great mentor to the youth of the community and contributed great

counsel and leadership to the City of Goldsboro's Board of Education and the Goldsboro public schools.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Attorney Louis Jordan. The City of Goldsboro, the State of North Carolina and the United States of America have suffered a great loss.

IN HONOR OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL SENIOR CENTER IN REDWOOD CITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share news about a remarkable organization serving many of the constituents in my home district. The Veterans Memorial Senior Center in Redwood City recently celebrated its recognition as the first—and only—accredited senior center in San Mateo County, the third in California and just the 148th of the 15,000 senior centers in the United States. The senior center's accreditation status is bestowed by the National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC), a unit of the National Council on the Aging.

Accreditation is the official recognition that a senior center is meeting its mission in a nationally accepted professional fashion. It is based on compliance with nine standards of senior center operations developed by NISC. Accreditation is unique to the senior center field and demonstrates outstanding leadership and commitment to high quality programs and services to older adults.

Madam Speaker, the Veterans Memorial Senior Center is to be commended for its vision, collaborative relationships, volunteer programs, outreach programs, wide range of health and fitness programs, plus support services. Its mission is to provide inclusive programs that enhance the body, mind and spirit focusing on health and wellness through a variety of social events, expressive arts, nutrition, fitness, educational, and recreational classes; plus social services support. And it does this very well.

On December 1, 2007, the Center celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a gala event featuring a theme of "Honoring Our Legacy and Looking Into Our Future." I rise today to recognize them on achieving this milestone, and to thank them on behalf of a grateful nation for all the good they do.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and the House, I thank the Veterans Memorial Senior Center on Madison Avenue in Redwood City for its 25 years of service and note the exemplary work that Linda M. Griffith, its director, has done to achieve this prestigious accreditation.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER MARTIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Martin, son of

Bob Martin and Kelly Martin of Kearney, Missouri. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions including assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, scribe, and assistant senior patrol leader. Alexander was also a past member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and earned his Brotherhood in Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Alexander demonstrated his ability to effectively lead and organize by putting all that he learned into constructing a storage basement for his church rectory in Liberty, Missouri, with the help of his scout and adult helpers. Alexander spent more than 140 hours of diligently planning, designing, and installing two storage units in order to maintain supplies for important committees and organizations within the church.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Martin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING SCOTT SPERLING ON
HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. Scott Sperling on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday. Scott is a man known for his intellect and business acumen, and I am fortunate to call him a friend.

Scott is currently Co-President of Thomas H. Lee Partners and Trustee and General Partner of various THL Equity Funds and is also President of TH Lee Putnam Capital. Additionally, he keeps busy as Director of Hawkeye Holdings, Thermo Fisher Corp., Univision Communications, Inc., Warner Music Group, and several private companies.

In addition to his business commitments and accomplishments, Scott is also a director of several charitable organizations including the Brigham & Women's / Faulkner Hospital Group, The Citi Center for Performing Arts and Wang Theater and Harvard Business School's Rock Center for Entrepreneurship.

Scott started on his illustrious career path after earning a B.S. from Purdue University and an MBA degree from Harvard University.

Scott and his wife Laurene have four children, Michael, Jenny, Zach, and Melanie. It seems as if each Sperling is more intelligent than the next, and much of the credit for that should probably go to Laurene.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to wish a happy 50th birthday to my dear friend, Scott Sperling.

INTRODUCTION OF FOUNTAIN
CREEK WATERSHED FEASIBILITY
STUDY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am introducing a bill to authorize a feasibility study regarding a multipurpose project in the Fountain Creek watershed in Colorado. The bill is in the House companion to a similar bill, S. 2384, the Fountain Creek Feasibility Study Act, introduced by Senator Ken SALAZAR.

As Coloradans know, Fountain Creek is a major tributary to the Arkansas River. Its watershed, which encompasses some 927 square miles, supports a wide variety of plants and wildlife and directly affects many residents of our state—in fact, according to the 2000 census, more than 500,000 people live in the watershed's boundaries. But the effect of Fountain Creek's flows extends beyond the watershed's boundaries. Water from the watershed serves municipal, industrial and agricultural uses. Creeks within the watershed contribute about 15 percent of the drinking water for Colorado Springs and are a source of irrigation for over 100 farms and ranches. The fertile farmland there produces wheat, corn, hay, oats, and vegetable crops; there are also many working livestock ranches along Fountain Creek. But the watershed has its problems, and in recent years, issues related to Fountain Creek have tended to divide local residents who otherwise would be united by its ability to serve as an important link for commerce and recreation.

Decades of neglect, increased waterflows resulting from urban development in the northern part of the watershed, increased stormwater discharges, and sewage spills have all contributed to the problems and the controversies. The watershed is subject to frequent flood damage, erosion, and sedimentation. In 1999 a major flood caused millions of dollars of damage to public and private property, and destroyed the foundations of numerous homes and roads. Indeed, earlier this year there was minor flooding from the Fountain in the Pueblo area. Farmers and ranchers near the downstream end of the watershed in particular have suffered substantial losses of productive farmland. Degradation of the water quality and thus aquatic and wetland habitats is accelerating due to wastewater spills, loss of natural vegetation, and high water volume. Simply put, Fountain Creek watershed's ecological conditions are unstable and under constant threat.

Senator SALAZAR's bill, and this House companion to it, aim at laying a foundation stone for the work of restoring Fountain Creek and turning the corridor between Colorado Springs and Pueblo into an environmental, agricultural, and recreational "crown jewel" for Colorado. Under the legislation, the Army Corps of Engineers would be required to conduct a study of the feasibility of constructing one or more dams and reservoirs to provide more reliable flood and sediment control, to conserve fish and wildlife and preserve their ecosystem, and to improve the water quality throughout the watershed. The Corps' expertise and experi-

ence will be critical to determining the options for restoring the health and stability of the Fountain Creek watershed.

The idea of such a multipurpose project on the Fountain is not new. It was first proposed in 1970 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after the 1965 flood that inundated communities along the Fountain Creek, including particularly the city of Pueblo. The proposal was supported by the States of Colorado and Kansas and local officials, and was even the preferred option of the Army Corps for addressing flooding in the Fountain. Like Senator SALAZAR, I think a similar proposal should be evaluated again, in light of changed conditions and increased flows in Fountain Creek resulting from urban development in the Colorado Springs metro area.

Senator SALAZAR has laid out a vision to revitalize Fountain Creek and connect the communities along its bank in a regional project. The feasibility study called for in S. 2384 and this House companion would be an essential first step. I agree with Senator SALAZAR on the desirability of taking that step, and the bill I am introducing today is intended to assist in making it happen.

IN HONOR OF MIKE LIPSKI

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, as we begin to wrap up this year's work in Congress, I wish to recognize a valued Mississippian who recently left my staff to pursue opportunities in the private sector back home in Mississippi. Mike Lipski served as my military legislative assistant and special projects director, and later, as my Legislative Director here in Washington, DC. Mike's heart has always been with his home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast; now he has returned there and taken a position as director of sector administration at Northrop Grumman. Mike's service to Mississippi and our country spans a lifetime of hard work.

Mike's two-decade service in the Navy stretches from his time as a surface warfare officer on the USS *Oliver Hazard Perry* to service as a Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer, including time at the Pentagon on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. He brought to my office experience as executive officer of Navy's Engineering Field Activity Southeast in Jacksonville, Florida, as well as a stint as a Navy Legislative Fellow serving on Senator TRENT LOTT's National Security staff.

On my staff, Mike utilized, promoted, increased, and protected the defense community's value, not only for security, but also as an engine of the economy. He demonstrated his commitment to the needs of our war fighters—past, current, and future—with his work on veterans legislation; support and funding for our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world; and preparation and planning for military training and base infrastructure around Mississippi and specifically at Meridian's Naval Air Station and our National Guard facilities. He served as the point person in my office during the most recent round of BRAC, base realignment and closure. He coordinated statewide efforts of military and community